

THE INDEPENDENT

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FEREBEE WILL KILL HIS OWN HIGHWAY PROJECT

Will Not Consent to Building Any Thing But Hard Surface Road and He Can't Provide The Money For That

At an informal meeting of the Northeastern North Carolina District Highway Commission held in Elizabeth City Wednesday, August 4, Senator Miles W. Ferebee put himself squarely on record as opposed to the construction of anything other than a hard surfaced road under the legislative act known as the Ferebee Bill. Thereby Senator Ferebee himself effectually kills the one remaining prospect of getting any sort of a district road. The Ferebee Bill does not provide enough money to build a hard surfaced road from Chowan to the Virginia state line. There is no assurance of state and federal aid to build the road and the five counties in the district positively will not vote a bond issue of \$2,000,000 to build that particular highway.

The meeting in Elizabeth City Wednesday was for the purpose of getting together the road commissioners and representatives of the several counties and trying to arrive at an agreement on some sort of an amendment that would enable the District Commission to build the proposed five-county road. The meeting got no where other than to appoint a committee to go to Raleigh next week and have another round of talk with the State Highway Commission. The meeting was not representative of the district. It was significant that E. R. Johnson, the Representative from Currituck County and M. L. Burgess, the Representative from Camden County, were not present at the meeting. Their failure to attend indicated their lack of interest in the project. It has been known for some time that Mr. Johnson is no longer interested in the District Highway scheme and it is a safe bet that Mr. Burgess will line up with Mr. Johnson.

Chowan is opposed to the Ferebee Bill and will not back its Representative on any amendment other than a repeal of the act. The Chowan member of the District Commission was not at the meeting Wednesday. Chowan has refused outright to levy its tax under the Ferebee Bill. While other counties in the district have paid in the ten cents on the \$100 provided by the Ferebee Act, Chowan hasn't put up a dollar and will not unless it is choked out of her. Will any one attempt to choke an objectionable tax out of Chowan? Not hardly. Remember the Edenton Tea Party. Those Edentonians have that little old tea kettle stuck up on a post on their public square where they are constantly reminded of it.

It was admitted at the meeting here Wednesday that a hard surface road could not be built under the Ferebee Act for less than two millions. The proposed road is 49 miles long. Concrete road construction to-day costs \$45,000 to \$65,000 a mile. Some think the road could be built at a cost of \$40,000 a mile.

The Ferebee Bill provides a bond issue of only \$500,000, or just one fourth of the lowest possible cost of the road. The Ferebee Bill does not provide a tax levy sufficient even to take care of a \$500,000 bond issue. The tax levy is 10 cents, based on the old valuation. The General Assembly is pledged not to increase taxes more than ten per cent under the Revaluation Act. Chairman C. W. Wheeler of the District Highway Commission says a 25 cents tax levy should be made to take care of a half million dollar bond issue, based upon the 1917 valuation.

It gets down to this: Drastic amendments will have to be made to make the Ferebee Bill workable; one of these amendments must involve a considerable tax levy upon the five counties. Will the counties stand for it? Will Mr. Johnson, of Currituck, Mr. Burgess of Camden and Mr. McMullan of Chowan support such amendments? It is not likely. Perquimans County will support almost any sort of amendment and Representative Saunders any reasonable amendment. But the Representatives of Perquimans and Pasquotank represent a minority of the votes to be counted.

Eighteen months ago this newspaper informed its readers that the Ferebee District Highway would not be built under the Ferebee Act as it now stands. This newspaper will almost wager that it will not be built under an amended act. And in laying this wager W. O. Saunders would pledge to support any amendment agreed upon by the counties of Chowan, Perquimans, Camden and Currituck.

POLTRY AND THE FAIR.

Poltrmen are offered special inducements to exhibit at the Elizabeth City Fair this year. Prices are to be awarded for single birds as well as pens and there will be a grand sweep stake for the best bird of any variety exhibited at the fair.

AYDLETT GETS LOW VALUATION

Re-appraisal of His Property Causing Raw Dissatisfaction

Considerable dissatisfaction is being manifested by certain taxpayers in Elizabeth City in the fact that E. F. Aydtlett, one of the wealthiest tax payers in the city seems to have had something of an inside track in the revaluation of his property this summer. It is altogether probable that Mr. Aydtlett's properties will appear on the tax books at a considerably lower valuation than other properties in the same class.

Take for instance Mitchell's Department Store building owned by Mr. Aydtlett. That building was appraised at \$40,000 by the tax supervisor. The appraisers cut it down to \$32,000 and Mr. Aydtlett appealed from that appraisal, swearing that the property is worth only \$27,500.

Right across the street from this building is the Bradford Building, appraised at \$40,000, and not as large a building as the Aydtlett building. On another corner just across the street is the new Savings Bank & Trust Co. building, a better building but occupying less ground than the Aydtlett building is appraised at \$45,000. Adjoining the Aydtlett building is the Kramer building appraised at \$71,000. Nearly a block away is a less desirable location is the Robinson building on Poindexter St. appraised at \$40,000.

And Mr. Aydtlett is appealing, to the State Tax Commission to cut the valuation of his corner down to \$27,500. Then there is Mr. Aydtlett's home on Main St., appraised at \$18,000. He got that cut down to \$15,000 and is now appealing to the State Tax Commission to cut it down to \$12,500. The property couldn't be bought for \$20,000. C. E. Kramer who owns a similar lot of property in the same block appraised at \$18,000, thought the appraisal fair. J. P. Kramer, owning the lot between E. F. Aydtlett and C. E. Kramer thought the appraisal of his property at \$16,000 fair enough. They want their valuation cut down if Mr. Aydtlett is to be so favored.

Mr. Aydtlett's activities in getting the valuation of his property below that of his neighbors is causing a lot of unwholesome talk and the public is reminded that Mr. Aydtlett never did pay more taxes than he was due to pay. He owns three big buildings in Elizabeth City, including the Southern Hotel and the Clark building on Water St. He has been swearing them in at a valuation of \$11,875 each, on which basis they are now taxed. The fact that Mr. Aydtlett is U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina; the fact that he is a big Baptist layman and a perpetual candidate for the Presidency of the Baptist State Convention; and the fact that he is talked up as a future candidate for governor of the state, doesn't help matters a bit.

REVALUATION COSTS COUNTY A TIDY SUM

Nearly \$7,000 to Date, and Then There Are Those Dipping Vats, Etc.

The revaluation of taxable property in Pasquotank County has cost the county \$6,723.03 to August 1 and the Tax Supervisor J. P. Thompson has about two months more work to get the records in shape for the sheriff's office. Most of the cost of the revaluation goes into salaries. Supervisor Thompson has drawn \$3,020 to date; his assistant Prof. W. M. Hinton has drawn \$1,514; the two tax appraisers, J. W. Perry and J. W. Wilcox have drawn jointly \$1,104.30. There is a little item of \$495.97 for automobile hire; \$103.90 for advertising and one or two minor items.

The figures are furnished by Chairman Burfoot of the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Burfoot says this and other unusual expenses has left the county treasury in a deplorable state. In addition to the outlay for revaluation of property, the Commissioners have spent \$22,248.11 for repairs on the county home and \$4,113.22 for cattle dipping vats in the county.

COMMUNITY FAIRS ADOPT PREMIUM LIST

The executive committee of the Fork-Corinth-Berger-Providencia community fair to be held at Fork High School in October met Saturday afternoon at county agent G. W. Falls' office, and passed upon the premium list to be used for the 1920 fair. Mr. Falls states that the list adopted is one of the biggest and best ever made up in eastern North Carolina for a fair of this type.

BEGIN WORK ON MODEL VILLAGE

Elizabeth City Hosiery Company To Build Homes Beautiful For Employees

The Elizabeth City Hosiery Mills have started construction on a group of model cottages on Broad St. near the hosiery mills which will mark the first notable improvement in the Elizabeth City mill district and promises to transform for everlasting beauty and good what is today one of the most undesirable sections of the city.

Cottages for textile mill workers in Elizabeth City have heretofore been of the cheapest, flimsiest, ugliest construction; box like-frame buildings, all built alike, costing around \$500 to build in pre-war times. The cottages now being built will cost \$2,500 to \$3,000 and every cottage will have individuality, no two being built alike. Plans and specifications were taken from the plans of model mill villages at Lexington and Winston-Salem.

The cottages will be rented at a reasonable rate to preferred employees of the hosiery company. Five cottages are being built in the first group and plans are in hand for 25 others, 30 in all.

CAN'T SELL BONDS FOR WEEKSVILLE SCHOOL

Didn't Make Tax Levy High Enough and Construction Is Held Up

With plans and specifications in the hands of the contractors and with a car load of brick already on the ground, the building of the proposed \$20,000 High School in the Weeksville Special District has been indefinitely held up because attorneys refuse to approve the special district's bonds. The Weeksville District cannot be extricated from this dilemma and work on the new school building resumed without a special act of the Legislature.

The bonds cannot be approved or sold because the tax levy provided in the special election held in the school district last spring is not large enough to take care of the bond issue. The election provided for a levy of 15 cents on the \$100 of valuation to retire one \$1,000 bond every year for 20 years and pay the interest on the issue. The school committee thought that 15 cents on the \$100 would be ample when property in the district was revalued under the Revaluation Act. But it pans out that they had no right to anticipate the Revaluation. The total amount of property in the district under the old valuation was only \$300,487.

Many school districts in North Carolina have made the same mistake. Roanoke Rapids is a notable example, with construction held up on a \$300,000 High School building.

HOG CHOLERA WORK UNDERTAKEN AGAIN

Dr. M. E. Coyle To Open Offices in Elizabeth City For Work in This Section

Dr. M. E. Coyle, of Wilkes-Barre, Penna., has arrived in Elizabeth City to take up the work of hog cholera control under the supervision of the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture, co-operating with Dr. F. D. Owen, State Inspector in Charge of hog cholera activities.

Dr. Coyle, who is a graduate of the United States College of Veterinary Science, of Washington, D. C., will have general supervision of hog cholera work in the northeastern portion of the State, with headquarters in Elizabeth City. He will be glad to have all farmers who have experienced difficulties in swine problems communicate with him, when he can come to the farm, and if the herds are need of inoculation will be also glad to undertake such work.

Headquarters of the work will be established in Room 302 of the U. S. P. O. Building, and post office address by which Dr. Coyle can be reached is Box 354, Elizabeth City.

R. H. DOZIER

R. H. Dozier, age 87, died at his home near Weeksville, this county last Friday night, following a long illness. The deceased leaves a wife and nine children: W. D. Dozier of this city, a member of the firm of Corbett & Dozier; T. R. Dozier of Spout Springs, R. E. Dozier of Norfolk, W. T. Dozier, now with the United States army in France; Mrs. T. G. Sanderlin of Weeksville, Mrs. Zenas Pritchard of Weeksville, Mrs. J. B. Sanders of Elizabeth City, Elizabeth Dozier of Weeksville and Miss Sarah Dozier of Norfolk.

NEGROES PLAN BICYCLE RACES FOR AUGUST 14

Five cash prizes ranging from \$5 down to \$1 will be awarded the winners of the bicycle races which will be staged here on Saturday, August 14th, in connection with the opening of the Albemarle Bank, a new colored financial institution. The races will be under the supervision of E. Alexander, director of the colored athletic association of this city, and those who wish to enter should see him before the day on which they will be held. Both white and colored bicycle riders are eligible for entry, and the prizes given will be awarded as the beginning of savings accounts in the new bank.

The Elizabeth City Type



MISS DOROTHY GREGORY

FROM the appearance of the front page of THE INDEPENDENT for the past several weeks faraway readers of this newspaper might have gotten the impression that Elizabeth City is populated by successful business men and other male creatures. Just to correct that impression we submit this week a photograph of an Elizabeth City girl, Miss Dorothy Gregory, younger daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Sam W. Gregory of this city. In a recent pictorial supplement of the Charlotte Observer, this portrait headed a full page display of Tar Heel beauties. Miss Gregory has been voted the prettiest girl in Salem College.

TOO MANY RATS SAYS CITY MGR.

Mr. Commander Says They Are Taking The Town—Cats and Dogs Needed

City Manager Commander is worried about rats. He says Elizabeth City is over run with rats and something should be done to get rid of them. Elizabeth City is by no means an isolated inland port and with Bubonic Plague threatening the port cities of the Atlantic and Gulf states, Elizabeth City may not be sure that an outbreak of the plague in any of these cities would not carry to Elizabeth City. Rats carry Bubonic Plague and rats travel on ships.

The City Manager says Elizabeth City people have no idea of the number of rats in Elizabeth City. The whole sale-district and the water front swarms with them. The night police often amuse themselves by going into down town alleys at night and throwing their flash lights on rats playing in the alleys. They say some of these rats are of enormous size and grunt and squeal like pigs.

Rats are consuming thousands of dollars worth of food stuff annually in Elizabeth City.

The City Manager believes we should encourage cats. He says we need cats and more cats. He says cats and dogs are the greatest enemies of rats and he believes the fact that the State is making war on dogs. He says when we have rid the country of sheep dogs we will have rid the country also of an army of rat killers and cleared the corn fields for an army of rats. He says the common house dog with all his faults is a menace to rats. Get rid of the dogs and the emboldened rats climb the farmers' corn stalks and eat up the corn.

While discussing rats, cats and dogs, the City Manager also deplored the fact that the Federal Government has made it unlawful to kill Red Birds and Thrushes. He says that these two birds offset all the good they do as insect eaters, by tearing up young plants in the spring of the year. Mr. Commander is for more dogs, more cats and less rats, Red Birds and Thrushes.

Hathaway Says

If you wear glasses, have your eyes and glasses both examined from time to time, and go to the place where you can afford to pay a reasonable price for real professional work. Remember your eyes are your bread-winners. Take care of them.

You have your teeth examined twice a year. Why not your eyes? They are more important.

Dr. J. D. Hathaway
Optometrist

Phone 999 Bradford Bldg.

SAYS REGISTRARS WILL DEBAR NEGRO WOMEN

Suffrage Leader Says Negro Women Will Be Treated Just Like Negro Men

"While some of the arguments against Woman Suffrage may gain sympathy, very little patience should be accorded those who oppose it on the ground that the passage of the 19th Amendment will admit negro women to the polls on an equality with white women," says Miss Gertrude Weil, President of the North Carolina Equal Suffrage Association. Miss Weil further says:

"When the 19th Amendment is passed its effect will be to write the word 'female' after 'male' in Section 1, Article VI of our Constitution and in Section 4316 of the Revised. Then, what will be the effect? Section 4316 of the Revised provides as follows: 'Subject to the exceptions contained in the preceding section (which provides that idiots, lunatics and criminals shall not vote, every male (and female) who have been naturalized, 21 years of age, a citizen of the State of North Carolina, who shall have resided two years in the State and six months in the county, etc. shall be a qualified elector in the precinct, ward or township in which he (or she) resides.'"

"But only such persons are allowed to vote shall register in accordance with law. Section 4317 provides: 'Only such persons as are registered shall be entitled to vote in any election held under this chapter.'"

"Now we come to the crux of the matter. Section 4318 of the Revised provides: 'Every person presenting himself (or herself) after the passage of the Amendment, shall be able to read and write any Section of the Constitution in the English language, and shall show to the satisfaction of the registrar his ability to read and write and such section when he applies for registration and before he is registered.'"

"It is well known that since the passage of this law, no negro has been allowed to register, unless the registrar, under the wide discretion given him, permitted him to do so. The registrar can refuse to be satisfied and generally does refuse to be satisfied with a negro man's ability to read and write the constitution, when such negro applies for registration. When the Amendment is passed the negro women will be placed in the same status as the negro men. When she applies for registration, she will not be able to satisfy the registrar of her ability to read and write the constitution, certainly not to his 'satisfaction.'"

"The provisions of the law are well known to many of the able opponents of Woman Suffrage and it is therefore unfair to frighten the ignorant by the old cry of negro domination. The present law has kept the negro from the polls since its passage. It will apply with equal force to the negro women."

PREMIUM LIST.

The printing of the Premium List of the Albemarle District Fair was completed this week and the attractive booklet will be ready for distribution from the offices of the Fair Association within a few days. The book was printed by THE INDEPENDENT.

ALBEMARLE BANK OPENS SATURDAY, AUGUST 14th

Negro Farmers and Business Men of Many Counties Behind New Financial Enterprise in Elizabeth City

FOUR CAR LOADS EARLY SWEETS

Movement of Another Big Crop Begins—Prices "Satisfactory"

Four car loads of sweet potatoes were shipped from Elizabeth City Wednesday, Aug. 4, marking the beginning of the sweet potato movement for the season 1920. These potatoes were from lower Currituck and were marketed thru the Carolina Potato Exchange. The price they brought would not be divulged by the Exchange.

"Prices are highly satisfactory," declares N. Howard Smith, manager of the Exchange, "and prices promise to continue satisfactory. The sweet potato growers will make good money out of their crop if they use care in packing their product. The right sort of packages are going to bring the money."

The price obtained for potatoes this week would not be divulged by the Exchange because of the possibility of offending local buyers. The prices obtained by the Exchange are the prices growers generally expect from buyers not related to the Exchange and the Exchange is giving the buyers a show for their money. The Exchange is interested only in protecting its members and doesn't care what happens to the fellow, who sells independently.

The movement of sweet potatoes will not attain its height until after the middle of August; shipments next week are expected to run five to twenty five car loads daily.

The entire output of the Carolina Potato Exchange is being marketed this season exclusively by the American Fruit Growers, Inc. of Pittsburgh. J. B. Boaz, representing this concern has been in Elizabeth City for several weeks and E. L. Skelley, General Sales Manager of the Company arrived here this week to personally superintend the marketing.

M. C. STANLEY WANTS \$2,500 FOR LOSS OF LEG

Was Injured in 1916 While Gratuitously Helping Chain Gang Remove a Tree

M. S. Stanley of this city wants the special session of the General Assembly which convenes next week to authorize the Commissioners of Pasquotank County to pay him \$2,500 for permanent injuries which he sustained in May 1916 while helping the chain gang to remove a tree.

Mr. Stanley was at that time a farmer. On the day of the accident the chain gang was working near his home and he gave the men a hand in pulling down a tree. The tree fell upon him, crippling him to such an extent that he was compelled to abandon his farm work and it is believed that he has lost the use of one of his legs for life.

The General Assembly of 1917 allowed Mr. Stanley a compensation of \$10 a month for his injuries until he should recover, but recovery seeming out of the question Mr. Stanley wants a final statement and wants the General Assembly to authorize the Commissioners to pay him \$2,500.

Mr. Stanley's appeal is backed by a petition signed by the Elizabeth City So far as known there is no opposition to his demand. If any oppose it they should make their opposition known to Representative W. O. Saunders at once, as the special session of the General Assembly convenes next week.

SUPERIOR COURT JURY LIST, SEPTEMBER TERM

The following is the jury list for the September term of Superior Court in Pasquotank county, which is scheduled to convene in this city on Monday, September 20th. First week: W. D. Weeks, N. F. Jennings, H. G. Davenport, N. S. Leary, M. L. Davis, Sr., G. E. Halstead, R. H. Murden, George W. Rogers, L. J. Bateman, Caleb Harris, S. R. Siff, J. H. Dail, M. C. Stanley, W. J. Woodley, L. B. Perry, W. H. Jones, M. G. Morrisette, Martin Jennings, C. C. Cartwright, R. M. Payne, John Corbett, G. E. Small, H. G. White, R. T. Venters, M. B. Sawyer, W. E. Roughan, S. M. S. Rollinson, M. Megahan, M. Hurdle, T. D. White, Carey Ballance, Jr., M. W. Davenport, O. F. Seymour, C. W. Melick, J. W. Sherlock, Oscar Davis.

Second week: J. T. Brothers, W. E. Dunstan, J. H. Whitehead, C. M. Cooper, S. W. Scott, J. A. Price, Jerry Sawyer, J. T. West, Ed. Morgan, L. E. Thorpe, P. G. Pritchard, Willie J. Sawyer, C. C. Meekins, R. E. Spruill, Joseph Simmons, James Swain, A. B. Williams, J. C. Menden, G. C. Jennings, Paul Brothers, J. L. Gregory, J. M. Bright, W. J. Gregory, and W. A. Brock.

With its capital of \$25,000 already over subscribed, the Albemarle Bank, eastern Carolina's new colored financial institution, will open its doors on Saturday, August 14th. This bank will occupy the former quarters of the Citizens Bank, at the corner of Poindexter and Fearing streets in the downtown business section. The building, which is now the property of Cleon W. Brown, a well known colored attorney, is now being extensively remodeled, and will be ready for occupancy by the formal opening day.

The president of the bank is Dr. E. L. Hoffer, an enterprising colored physician of this city; its vice-presidents are F. W. M. Butler, C. F. Graves, W. H. Case and Prof. P. W. Moore, all of whom are substantial citizens, and well known here. The cashier is W. H. Holland and the assistant cashier, J. R. Fleming. Cleon W. Brown will be general counsel for the institution, and Raphael O'Hara, assistant counsel. The board of directors of the Albemarle Bank includes upwards of 25 of the most prominent negroes of Eastern North Carolina and Tidewater Virginia. It is the only bank in North Carolina that has a woman on its board of directors. She is Mary E. Sills, of Ahoskie, N. C.

The formal opening ceremonies of the Albemarle Bank will be held Saturday, August 14th at Mt. Lebanon A. M. E. Zion church, on Culpepper street, in this city the most spacious, colored religious edifice in Eastern Carolina, and an attendance of 5,000 or more negroes from adjacent counties and Tidewater Virginia is expected. The principal speaker of the day will be Hon. William H. Harrison, the only negro superior court judge in America. His subject will be, "One thing lacketh thou," and his address will be heard with special interest for the reason that the speaker is noted throughout the South for his forceful and elegant speeches, and his intelligent view of the race question. Music will be furnished by the excellent brass band, of Norfolk, and souvenirs of the occasion will be presented to every depositor.

The Albemarle Bank stands out as the most worth-while and substantial achievement of the negroes of Eastern North Carolina. According to its promoters, the new institution has as its aims the encouragement of thrift and the promotion of agricultural and industrial enterprise among the colored people of this part of the State. It will be under the same supervision as all other State banks, and for that reason as safe and secure as any. In other words, it is a bank like other banks, the probably with a bigger mission than most.

SAYS PROVO'S OATS CAUSED HOG'S DEATH

But Pasquotank Highway Commission Couldn't See It That Way

Johnson Warden, a farmer who lives on the Desert road near this city, presented a most unique claim for damages to the Pasquotank Highway Commission at their meeting here Tuesday. Warden stated that Capt. J. E. Provo, superintendent of the county chain gang, had loaded a truck of oats in front of his gate, and that incidentally Provo spilled a quantity of oats in the road. That night while Warden's hogs were eating the wasted oats, an unknown auto-driver came along and ran over one of them, and Warden entered his claim for damages before the Commission on the ground that the oats were the cause of the hog's death, in that, had there been no oats in the road, the hog would have gone quietly to bed at sundown, as usual, instead of jazzing around on the public highway in the dark, providing a target for a careless motorist. Warden's unusual claim was turned down by the Commission, members of the latter courteously advising that he find the slayer of his porker, and demand reparation of him.

Dempsey Martin, colored, was allowed \$5 by the Highway Commission as half payment of damages to his cart when the negro's horse, hitched near the road, was frightened by a road truck, and ran away, breaking down a wheel of the cart.

A STRICTLY MODERN HOME

The new home of W. S. Overman, 717 Church street which is nearing completion is one of the most modern and up to the minute homes in this city. In planning this home, Mr. Overman chose materials that are durable and permanent as well as beautiful, and practically eliminates later repairs and upkeep. Kellastone Stucco was used for all the outer walls as well as for the door and window casings and sills. Kellastone is fire and water proof, will not crack and lasts a lifetime. Comes in many colors and never requires painting. Mr. Overman gave the contract for this work to Pierce & McClaren, 337 York St., Norfolk, Va., who are sole distributors for this and surrounding territory.